

**Office of Selectmen
945 Battle Street/Rte. 127
Webster, NH 03303**

7:00 P.M. Selectmen's Meeting – April 4, 2011

Present: Chairman George Cummings and Selectman Bruce Johnson. Selectman Hashem was absent.

The Board signed the payroll and check manifests.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Judith Jones:

- Chairman Cummings and former Selectman David Klumb signed the Selectmen's minutes of March 7, 2011 as written;
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Selectmen's minutes of March 21, 2011 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved;
- Chairman Cummings explained that the purpose of the special Selectmen's Meeting on March 31, 2011 was to select a candidate for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary to replace Mary Smith, noting that this person is the face of Webster when one comes through the door or calls. He advised that there were seven applications; however one received late was not considered at all. The Board made their selection on March 31st, but voted to seal the minutes until tonight at 7:00 pm, thereby giving the Board an opportunity to notify those candidates that were not chosen. He then announced that Therese Larson, who lives in Town, would be starting tomorrow. Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of March 31, 2011 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved;
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the non-public session of the Selectmen's minutes of March 31, 2011 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved;
- The Board signed the revised Software Purchase & Installation Agreement for the Tax Collect Internet Kiosk System;
- After an explanation by Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham pertaining to a letter received from the Department of Revenue regarding the authority of the Town to ask for an assessment sheet of wood cut when a "Report of Cut" is filed, where DRA noted that it was not a requirement by law, she advised the Board that it was up to the Selectmen to decide whether to abate a portion of a timber tax as was requested by the person filing the "Report of Cut". The Board signed the abatement, thereby granting the request.

The Board signed the following for Mrs. Pinkham:

- The MS-2 "Report of Appropriations Actually Voted";
- MS-5 "Annual Town Financial Report";
- The accounts payable check warrant from 3/22/11; and
- An Intent to Cut for Richard George – Map 4-41.

Appointment sheets were signed for those members the Selectmen appointed to the Boards and Committees on March 21, 2011.

Police Chief Robert Dupuis presented or advised the Board of the following:

- He received a letter from the Fire Marshall's Office requesting if the Town had adopted any policy regarding fireworks per RSA 160-C: 6. He checked with the Fire Chief, who had no knowledge of any such policy. He will review further before responding;
- Advised that the Lieutenant was on vacation last week and will be this coming week;
- Presented his semi-monthly report, detailing the highlights;
- There is \$400 in the ammunition budget, though much more was spent last year. Chief Dupuis advised that he had three 45 caliber sigs that the Department will not be using. He is proposing to take them to several dealers to see what they would give for them or possibly trade them for ammunition. Currently they carry 357 sigs. Chairman Cummings asked who used the 45 calibers. Chief Dupuis thought that the previous Chief and Department used them. Chairman Cummings had no problem with his proposal. Jaye Bowe inquired about a possible private sale. Chief Dupuis stated that he preferred to deal with a licensed dealer. Suggestions of locations to take them to were Rileys, Marshalls, Andrews, or Apanel. Mrs. Pinkham suggested that revenue from any sale might be able to be put in the Pistol Permit Account, which could then be spent at the Department's discretion. There was discussion on the blue-book value. Chief Dupuis will report back with his findings in a few weeks.
- Martin Bourque inquired as to whether any of the semi-monthly calls were in Salisbury, with Chief Dupuis advising that they were not.

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised that the Department responded to 44 calls to date. The Department is working on the upcoming Mutual Aid meeting on Sunday, April 17th at 7:00 am. This will be toned out, then go to 3-alarms, with approximately 22 fire vehicles expected to be on the road at 301 Tyler Road. He advised that the neighbors will receive notification. Mrs. Jones offered to send out the notifications if Chief Colby would provide the letter. Chief Dupuis asked what he would like for Police coverage. Chief Colby will put out signs of "Fire Training Ahead" and will keep one lane open, noting that a police officer would be appreciated. Chief Dupuis indicated that he would try to be there.

Road Agent Emmett Bean advised that the roads were wet and rough, otherwise it has been quiet.

Sonny Hunt, coordinator of the canoe and kayak races, met with the Board. This is the 27th year of the race, with course set-up on Friday, April 15th; practice on the 16th with the race on the 17th. Chairman Cummings inquired as to whether it was planned to camp in that area as usual, which Mr. Hunt agreed was the case. Mr. Hunt will provide a Certificate of Insurance through the American Canoe Association with Webster named as an insured on the policy. Dot Proulx requested that the campers and participants be asked to keep their dogs at home, as last year they were lunging at people. Mr. Hunt will put this request out on the internet. He noted also that there will be a public breakfast on Sunday.

Roy Fanjoy questioned the discussion at the last meeting regarding the business expense limited to \$415 per Selectman. He inquired as to whether this could be changed and one Selectman could get more should another Selectman become ill and need to take his place at such things as meetings, etc. Chairman Cummings felt that this could not change for this year at least, but noted that in the future there may be a policy change expanding that amount, noting that reimbursement would be with documentation only. Both Selectmen present advised that they were prepared to live within this year's limit. Chairman Cummings then advised that paying the Selectmen on a monthly basis has been altered; advising that two will be paid monthly and one will be paid annually. He spoke of the difference of the calendar year and the fiscal year, noting his thought was to do as other towns have done and that is to pay each Board member each month through the year with the last payment for a year's term to be in March. He then suggested nine payments going from April to December, noting everything seemed to work well that way. He then noted that things do balance out throughout the 3-year term.

7:36 pm The Board opened the two sealed bids for the roofing of the Town Hall. Mrs. Jones advised that six requests had been sent out; and that she attempted to call those that she had numbers for without success. After review of the two bids received and the Certificate of Insurance provided, the Board advised that the bids were from R.T. Lake and Rodney Sargent. Selectman Johnson recommended comparing the insurance coverage and asking for references. The Board tabled any decision until all Selectmen were present.

Chairman Cummings tabled the appointment of Planning Board Members and any other committee members until all Selectmen are present. He noted that several Volunteer Interest Forms for committees and boards have been received.

Regarding video and audio recordings of meetings, Chairman Cummings advised that there is software available should the Board decide to put same on the website. He advised that there is no urgency to start this process, noting that there are audio minutes available back to the beginning of this year. He was not in favor of spending a lot of money on this. Mrs. Jones advised that she has an inquiry out with Hopkinton to see how they put theirs on the website, but has not received any information to date.

Discussion on Mutual Aid was tabled as well, with Chief Dupuis noting that he received a call from Selectman Hashem that he wanted to discuss it again tonight.

Chief Dupuis asked John Clark if he had a blue book regarding the value of firearms, explaining to him what was discussed earlier in the meeting, which he did. Mr. Clark inquired as to whether one was the firearm of the former Chief, noting that there had been interest expressed in purchasing and presenting this firearm to him. Chief Dupuis should be able to identify the former Chief's weapon by the serial number. Though the weapons will not be sold privately, Butch Thornton spoke of a means by which a particular weapon could be transferred through a dealer.

Chairman Cummings discussed a series of e-mails going back to March 16th relative to the "Protest Petition" that was filed regarding the campground zoning petition articles. The protest petition by State Statue would require signatures of 20 percent of the property in the zone of the municipality affected by any amendment. The Town Attorney had case law to back up his opinion that the protest petition did not meet the requirements to be legal. Chairman Cummings advised that the issue had been revisited a week or so later by Tom Mullins with Local Government Attorney Paul Sanderson and then subsequent to that, Selectman Hashem sent Attorney Sanderson's assessment to Bart Mayer, Town Attorney. At that point Attorney Mayer and Attorney Sanderson spoke, with the outcome sent to the Town, advising that they agreed that the original protest petition did not meet the legal requirements. Chairman Cummings said that one reason for making this public was to check to see if there was any privilege afforded to Attorney Sanderson saying he would

pose this question to Attorney Mayer. Mr. Thornton asked if he was saying that the petition had no merit, which was so. Selectman Johnson asked to clarify which petition was being referenced, to which Chairman Cummings stated that it was the "Protest Petition". He then said that all the amendments on the ballot passed, which he said surprised him. He noted that the petition articles could now be tightened up by the Planning Board in the near future so that there would be no doubt as to the specifics. He said he also believes that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Zoning Ordinances.

Jaye Bowe asked for clarification of the Salisbury Police coverage as she had heard that the Town would be reimbursed from the Salisbury Police Budget, possibly in the amount of \$65,000. She had heard this after a meeting in Salisbury whereby it was said that Salisbury would pay Webster if Webster would provide police coverage. Chief Dupuis agreed that this had been discussed, but advised that there was no contract. The Salisbury Selectmen sent a mutual aid agreement to Webster, but as the Selectmen had no authority to enter into a mutual aid agreement, Chief Dupuis sent a copy to the County Attorney's Office for an opinion to which it was agreed that the Selectmen did not have the authority as there must be an officer-in-charge according to statute. Salisbury's attorney and the County Attorney approached the Sheriff's Department and named the Sheriff as the Officer-in-Charge for the Salisbury Police. Then there was an agreement written, with the Sheriff signing as the officer-in-charge, requesting the surrounding municipalities provide mutual aid during an emergency. Chief Dupuis referred to the meeting with MRI, Inc. of Meredith in Salisbury on March 16th where there was a presentation regarding the collaboration of municipalities regarding everything from services to material purchases. Currently he is waiting to hear further from Salisbury. Mrs. Bowe asked if the Town was considering a contract with Salisbury, but that is not the case. Chairman Cummings noted that this is something for consideration in the future, noting that a lot of logistics need to be reviewed prior to any commitment. There was continued discussion on the current and recent past status of the Salisbury Police Department and Webster's involvement now and in the future. Questions were raised on when mutual aid was used. Chairman Cummings advised that the Board has left the decision up to the Chief and that the Chief would decide when the number of requests might become a burden to the Town, at which time changes would be made, but that is not the case at this time. Chief Dupuis said that when Salisbury had a Department, they responded to Webster far more than Webster responded to Salisbury. He further explained how he would handle a variety of calls for service. He noted that the State Police are looking at a loss of about 40 officers, which could affect their ability to respond. When asked how the Police are called for service, the Chief advised that it was through dispatch. The Chief was asked to report calls to Salisbury on his semi-monthly reports, which he will do. When asked if we were mutual aid to any other Towns, the Chief listed the many towns involved.

8:10 PM Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.

George C. Cummings, Chairman

Bruce G. Johnson

BOS/jj